

14 Nov 52

Mr. Roger W. Jones
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference
Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jones:

We are enclosing herewith the draft Executive Order establishing the National Security Medal for Distinguished Achievement. We have classified this draft "confidential" for purposes of handling only. You will note that we have amended the draft to exclude any reference to the Director of Central Intelligence. However, we wish that the Director control the award of this decoration and request that he be so authorized by the President. We enclose a draft of a suggested letter of authorization to prescribe regulations and make the awards. This letter further designates the Director as the one to approve the design of the medal.

With respect to the question which you have raised regarding the President's authority to issue this Executive Order, may we refer you to Executive Order 9586, dated July 6, 1945, published in CFR, 1945 Supp. page 96, establishing the Medal of Freedom. The President in that Order referred only to his vested authority as President of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief. It is our opinion that a recitation of this authority is adequate for purposes of the enclosed draft Order.

General Smith is very anxious to secure the approval of this Order as soon as possible. Any efforts which you are able to make in this connection will be greatly appreciated by us.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

Enclosure